Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A [[P]]process for the production of a heat-sensitive imageable element comprising:

   ~~(a) providing a substrate,~~

   (~~b~~a) applying a first coating solution to a substrate,
   the first coating solution comprising at least one photothermal conversion material, at least one polymer A soluble or swellable in an aqueous alkaline developer and at least one solvent,

   (~~e~~b) drying the applied first coating solution,

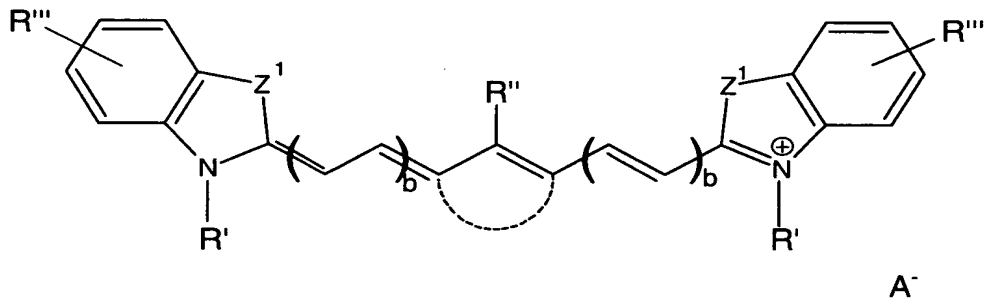
   (~~d~~c) applying a second coating solution to the applied first coating solution,
   the second coating solution comprising at least one cross-linkable polyfunctional enolether, at least one polymer B comprising hydroxy groups and/or carboxy groups, and at least one solvent, wherein the polymer A used in the first coating solution does not dissolve in ~~this~~ the second coating solvent,
   wherein the second coating solution does not contain a photothermal conversion material, and

   (~~e~~d) heating to a temperature of at least 60°C.

2. (currently amended) The [[P]] process according to claim 1[[,]] wherein the polymer A of the first coating solution is selected from copolymers derived from N-substituted maleimides and comonomers copolymerizable therewith, copolymers comprising a urea group in the side chain, and copolymers with a sulfonamide group in the side chain, and mixtures thereof.

3. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ wherein the polymer B of the second coating solution is selected from novolaks, polyvinyl phenolic resins, acidic polyvinyl acetals and (meth)acrylic acid ester/(meth)acrylic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

4. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3,~~ wherein the photothermal conversion material has the formula



(III)

wherein

each Z^1 independently represents S, O, NR^a or $C(alkyl)_2$;

each R' independently represents an alkyl group, an alkylsulfonate group or an alkylammonium group;

R" represents a halogen atom, SR^a, OR^a, SO_2R^a or NR^a_2;

each R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, -$COOR^a$, -OR^a,

-SR^a, -NR^a_2 or a halogen atom; R''' can also be a benzofused ring;

A^- represents an anion;

--- represents an optionally present carbocyclic five- or six-membered ring;

R^a represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or aryl group;

each b can independently be 0, 1, 2 or 3.

5. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 4,~~ wherein the polyfunctional enolether is bis[4-(vinyloxy)butyl]isophthalate.

6. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5,~~ wherein the first coating solution further~~more~~ comprises at least one additive selected from contrast dyes and pigments, surfactants, print-out dyes, flow control agents, and antioxidants.

7. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 6,~~ wherein the second coating solution furthermore comprises at least one additive selected from contrast dyes and pigments, surfactants, print-out dyes, flow control agents, and antioxidants.

8. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 7,~~ wherein the solvent for the first coating solution comprises methyl lactate.

9. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 8,~~ wherein the solvent for the second coating solution comprises propylene glycol monomethylether acetate.

10. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 9,~~ wherein the application of the coating solutions in steps ~~(b)~~ (a) and ~~(d)~~ (c) is carried out by means of a slot coater.

11. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 10,~~ wherein the drying of step ~~(c)~~ (d) is carried out at a temperature in the range of 60 to 150°C.

12. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 11,~~ wherein prior to the application of the first coating solution, the substrate is subjected to at least one treatment selected from graining, anodizing, and hydrophilizing.

13. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 12,~~ wherein the substrate is an aluminum plate or foil.

14. (currently amended) A [[H]]heat-sensitive imageable element obtainedable by the process according to any of claim[[s]] 1 to 13.

15. (currently amended) A [[P]]precursor of a heat-sensitive imageable element comprising:

(a) a substrate,

(b) a first layer on the substrate
comprising at least one photothermal conversion material and at least on polymer A soluble or swellable in an aqueous alkaline developer, and

(c) a second layer
comprising at least one cross-linkable polyfunctional enolether and at least one polymer B comprising hydroxy groups and/or carboxy groups, wherein the second layer does not contain a photothermal conversion material.

16. (currently amended) A [[H]]heat-sensitive imageable element obtainedable by heating the precursor defined in of claim 15 to a temperature of at least 60°C.